settlers are so poor, that they cannot pay for the seed-grain with which they were supplied by the Government a few years ago. However, admitting all this to be true, I reply, that to the great majority of parents among the tenantry, the new system will afford very sensible relief; for, where they had heretofore to contribute 40s., 50s., or even £4 a year, for the support of a district school, they will have to pay no more than 4s. 2d., and the balance will be left them for the clothing of their children. If we take into account what our farmers spend in luxuries—even the poorest among them—at home, or at market, or at fairs, it will appear quite ridiculous to say, that they cannot pay 4s. 2d. each per annum, or even four times as much for the education of their children. And, as to the notion of the hon. member for Charlottetown, that with the inability of some tenants to pay this small annual tax for the education of their children, there would occasionally be found an unwillingness to avail themselves of the benefits of free school education for their children. I believe, that scarcely an instance can he found, in any country where the advantages of education are at all known and appreciated, of a parent, however ignorant and uninformed, as respects school learning, who would not gladly secure to his children, if he could, the means of overcoming the difficulties and mortifications which the want of education may have entailed upon himself: naymore, I believe it is very often, if not generally found, that parents who have had little or no advantages of education themselves, are more anxious to secure those advantages to their children, than many amongst those of superior educational attainments. Another hon. member had objected, that teachers of sufficient acquirements and respectability could not be procured for annual salaries of no more than £40 or £60. That might be true, as respected Great Britain; but, in the United States, where common school education was of a very high and comprehensive character, and where the educational and moral qualifications of the teachers were of the most respectable order, the salaries did not exceed those amounts. The salaries of teachers in Canada were also on a similar scale; ranging from £35 to £60 a year. And, if in the United States, in which the field for the employment of talent and acquirements was so extensive, and the occupations so various in which they might be advantageously employed, superior teachers, in almost any number, could be secured for those limited stipends, we can have little, if any reason at all, to doubt that here, where the opportunities for the profitable exercise of talents and learning are so few, we shall not be able to find a sufficient number of duly qualified and respectable teachers to conduct our free schools for such salaries. It has also been objected to the contemplated scheme, that it would operate unjustly, with respect to tenants and other holders or occupiers of property, who had no children; since they would be obliged to contribute as much for the support of the system, as they who had children to be educated under it. The operation of the scheme, however, in this particular, is perfectly fair and justifiable. The support and working of the system will be for the general good; and every individual in the community will eventually be benefited by it. To use what, by some, will be termed a jesuitism, this is one of those measures with respect to which it is allowable to do a little wrong to effect a great good. The man who has no children to be educated, but who, under the operation of the contemplated scheme, will be obliged to contribute for its support, has now to contribute for the maintenance of jails and a lunatic asylum; and it ought to be remembered, that crime and licentious indulgence which have supplied both with their victims, have generally had their source in ignorance, and in the want of moral and intellectual training. It is an old and true saying, that it is better to pay the baker than the doctor; and, if I may be allowed, I will add to this a similar adage, and say, "it is better to pay the parson or the schoolmaster, than the lawyer or the hangman." The general diffusion of education will be the general diffusion of all the elements of order, peace, harmony and happiness. It will increase the capacity for, and the amount of pure enjoyments, in domestic circles. It will afford security to property; and give the best guarantee for the fulfilment of every obligation of duty. It will give a stimulus to industry, and assist ingenuity. It will diminish the temptation to crime, and enable individuals to secure the objects of their reasonable or laudable ambition. And while, with respect to individuals and families, it will elevate their minds and improve their condition; it will increase public spirit, aid in the opening up and improving our resources and contribute largely to the general prosperity of the Colony. I am not aware whether or not the details of the Education Bill will embrace any new matter not alluded to in the Report now before the Committee; but if the Bill is to be drawn up strictly in accordance with that Report, I would suggest, that it is highly worthy of consideration to amend that Report, so that it may contain a recommendation, to the effect, that the contemplated Education Bill shall include a provision for the establishment of three Scholarships, in connection with the Central Academy. These scholarships might be fixed at about £30 each, to be open to the competition of youth from the three counties of the Island, for which they should be set apart. Looking to the good effects arising from the establishment of scholarships in other countries—in England, in the United States, and in the North American Colonies—to the wholesome influence they exercise in stimulating and sustaining the industry and ambition of young men of talents and acquirements,—and to the fact, that a Scholarship frequently affords the requisite means to a person of talent, who may be fortunate enough to win it, of pursuing his studies at an educational establishment, when, without such Scholarship, the want of the necessary funds to maintain himself in a respectable position, would compel his abandonment of academic pursuits—looking, I say, to the good effects arising from the establishment of Scholarships, on the grounds I have just mentioned, I am thoroughly convinced, that an annual expenditure of £90 would be a highly judicious one, for the purpose I have just alluded to. If it be necessary to adduce any proof of the advantages which result from the establishment of Scholarships, I may remind the Committee, that two of our Island youth—educated at the Central Academy at Charlottetown—have won distinguished honors and rewards, one in the Academy at Pictou, and the other in the Academy at St. Andrew's, N. B., and, that by their success in first winning Scholarships at King's College, Windsor, were they enabled to compete for and carry off the higher prizes of Professorship. These are facts not only creditable to the young gentlemen themselves, but it is gratifying to the pride of their fellow countrymen to reflect, that in an area, comparatively so extensive as that of Nova Scotia, or as that of New Brunswick, two Island lads should have so nobly distinguished themselves, as the young gentlemen to whom I have now made reference. While, then, the neighbouring Provinces have given such proofs as these of their enlightened liberality in making provision for the support of their educational institutions, and while such liberality has conferred an honor upon our Academy here, and the most solid advantages on two individuals, whose thirst for knowledge was first created within its walls—we should not, in my opinion, lose the present opportunity, when we are about revising and amending our Education Laws, of introducing a feature into the character of our Central Academy, so productive of much private and public good, as that which I have just suggested.

Mr. YEO. If the measure should be carried, according to the recommendation of the Report, it would be a most unpopular one. He believed the vast majority of the tenants were opposed to it. He was in favor of such a system of education as would operate for the general benefit,—for the benefit of the poor man's children as well as for those of the comparatively rich; but he was opposed to any scheme which could not be supported without increasing the burthens of the poorer classes of the tenantry, by increased direct taxation. It was the burthen of taxation in the old country, which had compelled so many to emigrate from it to this, and there was nothing which such persons dreaded more, than a recourse to similar impositions here, for the support either of the Government or of any public institutions. They look upon a taxation scheme with abhorrence. They think it would be a crime to sanction it; because, by their doing so, not only would they be consenting to an increase of their present difficulties, as respects themselves, but they would be consenting to the perpetuation of a similar imposition and burthen upon their children. They think, and think justly, that if they once allow direct taxation to be established for the support of any public object, be it what it may, it will not fail to be gradually followed up for almost every other public purpose, and, that the upshot will be the establishment of such a system of taxation upon their children, as that which has driven so many thousands from the old country. The scheme proposed by the Report had been tried in Nova Scotia; and a short trial of it there, had shewn that it would not answer. They had also tried it in Newfoundland, and they soon found out that it was one of the worst things they had ever done. In England, so extravagant a scheme had never been heard of. The system which he thought would work the best, was that to which he knew the great majority of his constituents to be favorable: it was, that the Government allowance should be increased to £20 and £30, if it could be afforded, and, that the people should be bound as before to make up at least the same amounts; by which means, he thought, all the objects of the contemplated measure would be attained, and in a way perfectly satisfactory to the whole community. He wished to favor every measure which was meant for the public good; but he would not consent to a further increase of the burthens of the tenants by voting for the additional land-assessment, for the support of any system of education, or for any other object; knowing, as he did, how great a hardship the payment of the present tax of 2s. 6d. the hundred acres was to them.

Mr. LAIRD, in support of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County (Mr. Mooney,) observed that, whether any such system, as that contemplated by the amendment, existed in England, or not, and even granting that, as had just been asserted by an hon. member (Mr. Yeo,) it neither did exist, nor ever had existed, in that country; it was the very foundation of the Parochial School System in Scotland, through the operation of which, the advantages of education are enjoyed by the humbler classes of the Scottish people; and to which, as the hon. the Treasurer had justly said, was to be attributed, not only the general intelligence of the Scotch, but their superior morality, both at home and abroad. The system of general education in Scotland had long been the admiration of all other European nations; and, as the hon. the Treasurer had just informed the Committee, the general diffusion of education among the people of the United States was owing to their adoption, (so far as circumstances peculiar to their republican form of Government would admit,) of the Scottish system; the foundation of which was a tax upon the proprietors of the soil. In Scotland the heritors or proprietors of the soil in a Parish are bound, by law, to build the School-house and to pay one-half of the Schoolmaster's salary. The principle is a fair and equitable one; and, if the House mean to grant any thing like a full measure of justice to the people, with respect to education, they will adopt the amendment of the hon. member, Mr. Mooney.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. With respect to what had fallen from his hon. colleague (Mr. Yeo,) to the effect that three-fourths of the electors of the First District of Prince County were opposed to the taxation scheme for the support of education, he (Mr. W.) must beg leave to deny the correctness of the assertion. That no petitions in favor of the scheme had been entrusted to him (Mr. Yeo) was very easily accounted for, without admitting the truth of that assertion. It was generally known, amongst the electors of the First District of Prince County, that their representative, Mr. Yeo, was averse to the taxation scheme; and, therefore, none of them, excepting the few who with him were opposed to it, would think of placing a Petition having reference to the question in his hands. Some individuals in that quarter, as well as others in various other sections of the Island, had, with all the zeal and industry which frequently distinguishes the agents of a bad cause, done all they could, by misrepresentation, to prejudice the minds of the people against the scheme; and it could not be denied that, in too many instances, those propagators of falsehood had labored, with some success, in their vocation; and many had been persuaded by them that, for the support of the contemplated System of Education, it would be necessary to impose a tax of 20s. or 30s. on every 100 acres of all the lands under cultivation; and hence the opposition to the scheme, in the shape of a few Petitions from some of the individuals so deceived. But, with respect to his (Mr. W's.) own constituents, he was proud and happy to be able to say, that he believed nine-tenths of them were in favor of the new system, as set forth in the Report before the Committee; and, indeed, as regarded the important measure generally, and the very moderate tax by which it was proposed to support it, he (Hon. Mr. W.) did not hesitate to say, that he would be ashamed to represent any constituency that could not perceive how great a blessing it was calculated to confer upon them and the people in general; and how deserving it was of their support, not only on account of the advantages which would spring from it, but also as respected the lightness of the burthen which it would impose upon them, compared with the magnitude of the benefits which would result from it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. He was decidedly in favor of the principle of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County (Mr. Mooney); and he opposed its adoption solely on account of its present inexpediency, and the impolicy of seeking to make it a part of the Education Bill. Such an improved and extended system of general education, as that contemplated by the Report, would, it was admitted on all hands, be the greatest immediate boon that the Legislature could confer upon the Colony; and, therefore, nothing which was likely either to defeat the intentions of the representatives of the people, with respect to that measure, or even to delay its establishment, should be connected with it. Let the Bill, in the first place, be so framed, that nothing contained in it may appear to afford any sufficient grounds for such representations and remonstrances, on the part of the proprietors, as might induce Her Majesty to refuse the Royal Assent to the Bill. Let it be so framed, that the House and the country may have reason to look forward to its speedily becoming a part of the law of the land; and then, when in operation, steps may safely be taken for causing that class to contribute to its support who, without the adoption of Mr. Mooney's amendment, would escape Scot-free. The truth is that, notwithstanding the justice and equity of the principle of Mr. Mooney's proposed amendment, its adoption and incorporation with the Bill, might prove its ruin. And, as to the opposition to the adoption of the Report made by the hon. member for Belfast, (Mr. Davies,) on the ground, that the Government had not yet brought forward and settled the Land and Fishery Reserves questions, he (Hon. Mr. W.) would, at present, say nothing more than that he thought the bringing forward of these questions, in connexion with that of the contemplated reform in the system of general education, was premature and very impolitic. As respected the educational scheme, it was certainly much more likely to be damaged, if not completely circumvented, than in any way furthered, by the resuscitation of those long-vexed questions in connexion with it; and it would certainly be most preposterous to make the success of that most needful and important scheme, dependent upon the issue of a war with the proprietors.

Mr. MOONEY. In reply to my hon. friend Mr. Whelan, I must confess it is very amusing to hear that honorable gentleman talk of the probability of my amendment defeating the Bill. I am taunted with coalescing with the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, (Mr. Palmer,) for the purpose of annoying the Government. But this I deny. Mr. Palmer knows me too well to ask me to do such a thing. If Mr. Palmer, although he and I seldom agree, is prepared to carry out any measure that would be of any benefit to the people, I am prepared to act as his colleague for that purpose. I am bound to no party any longer than I see that party with which I generally vote carry out beneficial measures for my constituents. There is no member of this House who has been returned more honorably than I have been: I am, therefore, at liberty to vote as I think proper. But, as for the Government, they have not acted as they should have done. They suffered two vacancies in the Legislative Council, and allowed the One-ninth Bill to be lost; and, from that day to the present moment, it has never left my mind; nor will it, so long as my memory remains with me.

Mr. DAVIES. His reference to the unsettled Fishery Reserves and Land questions was neither uncalled for nor premature; but he would take leave to tell the hon. member who had just sat down, that his observations, touching the introduction of those questions, in connexion with the Report on Education, by him (Mr. Davies) were both premature and uncalled for. Before the last general election, the people generally had been led to entertain the belief, that it was the intention of the liberal party, should they be in the majority, in the next House, to enter upon a full investigation and settlement of those questions without delay; and it was nothing but the confident expectation of the people, relative to such investigation and settlement, that had placed the liberal party in the position which they now occupy in the Government and the Legislature. The people expected that those vexatious questions, on the proper solution of which depended the well-being of the tenantry, and the general prosperity of the country, would be the first to occupy the attention of the Government and the Assembly; and no alleged impolicy or inexpediency, as respected their immediate consideration, would satisfy or convince the people of the propriety of its postponement, or that their well-grounded expectations, with reference to those questions, were regarded as they ought to be by their representatives.

Hon. Mr. COLES. As the Leader of the Government, he denied that they stood pledged to the country to revive the Escheat or Land Question as it was generally called. If the hon. member (Mr. Davies) had made any such pledge to his constituents, he (Mr. C.) was disposed to pity him; for he knew not by what means he could hope to redeem it. Long before the recent change in our local government took place, it was determined by the Home Government, that they would not sanction any further agitation of the general escheat question, or entertain any measure of our Legislature of which escheat should be either the immediate or the ultimate object. It had more than once been plainly and directly intimated, to the people of this Colony, by means of Despatches from the Colonial Office that they must rest satisfied with what had been done in that way. And there could be no reason why the people should be dissatisfied with that decision of the Home Government; for it was well known that only one Township in the Island was liable to be escheated, and that the Township was of so little value that it was not worth looking after. But independently of any consideration of the inutility of the revival of the escheat question, he could not but condemn the course pursued by the hon. member for Belfast, (Mr. Davies) and the hon. member who had submitted the amendment (Mr. Mooney); for, should the House consent to be governed by them, there would be no better provision made for general education, than the present very imperfect and inefficient one, until every and all other grievances of the people should be remedied, whatever length of time might be necessary for their redress; and until that period should arrive the majority of the children in the Colony would have to be brought up in ignorance. There was not he believed another member of the House besides himself (Mr. Davies) who was not satisfied that nothing could be more absurd and futile than a revival of escheat agitation. With respect to the passing of a measure to compel the registration of the Original Grants, should the hon. member introduce a Bill for that purpose, it should have his (the Hon. Mr. C's) support; but, beyond that, he would be no party to any measure affecting the titles of the proprietors. As far back as the Session of 1843, it would be found, by a reference to the Journal of the House, that even Mr. Cooper, who had been the Speaker and Leader of the Escheat House, as it had been called, had acquiesced in the determination of the Home Government, with respect to the Titles of the Original Grantees. When the Ejected Tenants Bill of that Session had been reported from the Committee of the whole House, he, (Mr. Cooper) moved that the Bill be recommitted, for the purpose of amending the same, according to his own views; and the preamble to his amendment was this: "Whereas Her Majesty's Ministers have stated, in their Despathes, that the conditions contained in the Grants were impracticable. and that it would be unfair to deprive the Proprietors of such Grants of the Lands for the non-performance of such conditions; but, as Proprietors have imposed conditions upon persons who have improved the land, which are so oppressive as to deprive such persons of the benefit of their improvements; it is therefore not only necessary, but just and equitable, that while the proprietors of such grants are allowed to retain the fee-simple of the land so granted in its wilderness state, that persons who have cleared such land, and brought it into a state fit for cultivation at their own cost and labor, and have erected dwelling houses and other buildings thereon, should be secured in their improvements, by a settlement upon the land; or in case of being ejected, or deprived of their land (by the proprietors of the original grants,) to be allowed a fair and reasonable compensation for their improvements." That, he (Hon. Mr. C.) thought, was quite sufficient to shew that all hopes of escheat were then abandoned, by the escheat party themselves; but, whilst referring to this document, as an evidence of the abandonment of escheat agitation in 1843, he could not forbear remarking how singularly inconsistent Mr. Cooper was, in having prayed His Excellency to withhold his assent to the late Ejected Tenants Compensation Bill, on the ground that the passing of it would confirm the Titles of the Proprietors; although he himself in 4842, put, upon the Journal of the Assembly, a record, tantamount to a declaration to the validity of those Titles.

Mr. DAVIES. However untrammelled the hon. Leader of the Government or any other hon. member of the House, might feel himself to be, with respect to pledges to his constituents, he could not be more independent, on that score, than he (Mr. Davies) knew himself to be. He was, indeed, advocating the opinion of those whose representative he was; but he did so in the most independent grounds; for, how much soever the tenantry might, eventually, be benefited, by the result of those enquiries, which he considered the Government and the Assembly bound, in duty to the people, immediately to institute, and honestly and diligently to prosecute to an issue; he had not the most distant expectation of being a gainer by it. As an independent representative of the people, he stood up there to advocate and maintain, according to the best of his ability, what he believed to be the rights of the people; and those enquiries which he felt it to be his duty to urge upon the House, with a view to the redress of the most serious grievances of the tenantry, were not enquiries, the justice and necessity of which had only recently became manifest to him, but they were what years ago, his knowledge of their condition and of the deceptions which had been practised upon the tenantry in general, had fully convinced him were due to them, in common justice, from the Government and the Legislature.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. By whatever means the people had been induced to form the expectation—whether through the voluntary pledges and promises of individual candidates for the suffrages of the people; or by means of a certain Address, before the last general election, by the friends and agents of the party now in power, he knew not; although he suspected it was partly by both—it was quite certain that the people had been led to look for something more from that party, than the mere establishment of what was termed the Responsible System of Government; and that was direct interference, on the part of the Assembly and the Government, between the tenants and the proprietors, with a view to the relaxation by some means or other, of the covenants by which, on their leases, the former are bound to the latter.

Hon. Mr. COLES again declared that he had never made any such pledges as those alluded to. The hon. member, Mr. Montgomery knew that, when confronted by him and others, in the presence of his constituents, he (Mr. Coles) had never flinched from making a full and unequivocal declaration against the revival of the escheat agitation, or from giving them distinctly to understand, that he would never be a party to any measure, having for its object any interference with the titles of proprietors, as founded on the Original Grants from the Crown. And, observed the honorable member, whilst disclaiming any pledge or promise of this kind, as respects myself, I feel it due to my colleagues in the Government to say, that I believe, every one of them is as free from such obligations as I am myself. The meeting which took place at Millvale, for the purpose of taking into consideration the means, by which, it was understood, effect was to be given to what was considered to be the Government scheme for the promotion of general education, was a meeting which had its origin in the false alarm, spread among the people, by the opponents of the Government and those immediately in the interest of the proprietors, who had persuaded themselves, that they could organize a successful opposition to the measure, among the people, by inducing them to believe, that should it pass into a law it would impose upon them, for its support, the payment of an annual tax of 20s. or 30s. per 100 acres. He was invited, by letter to attend that meeting. He attended accordingly. There might have been about 200 present. A chairman was appointed, and he (Mr. Coles) then, in accordance with what he knew to be the wishes of the people, entered into a full explanation of his scheme, shewing what amount of annual revenue, he had calculated, would be sufficient for the support of the system, and also how he meant to propose it should be raised. He was closely questioned and cross-questioned with respect to the intended additional land assessment; but, on his assurance that it would not exceed half-penny per acre, there was a general expression of satisfaction. He then stated to the meeting, that it was his wish to carry the opinions and consent of the people along with him in favour of every great public or general measure which might originate with him as the Leader of the Government; and that, should it be found that the people were opposed to the contemplated system of free education, on account of the tax of a half-penny an acre which it would be necessary to impose for its support, the measure would be abandoned. And therefore, that he might distinctly understand how many of those present were in favour of the taxation scheme or opposed to it, he proposed that they should have an opportunity of dividing on the question. The question was then put by the Chairman; and, as the room in which the meeting was held was too small for a division, it was proposed that all who were opposed to the tax should leave the room, and all who who were in favour of it should remain. The proposal was acted upon; and the result was, that only one man, as opposed t the tax, went out, and he was one who had no child. He (Mr. C.) afterwards said to him: "The soooner you get a few children, the better."

Mr. FRASER. The debate had extended to a very unusual length; and, as nearly every thing had been said that could well be imagined, either in favor of the tax, or against it,—that apparently being the only real cause of any great difference of opinion, with respect to the merits of the Report,—he felt that there could be little or no necessity for any further remarks, relative to the question, at present. He would, therefore, merely briefly indicate the course which he was disposed to pursue, with respect to it. All who had spoken had acknowledged the necessity of education, and the inefficiency of the present system. It was, therefore, clear that they were all convinced, that it was their duty to make an efficient provision for general education; if they could do so without imposing any undue burthen upon the people for its support. He was prepared to go with the Bill, if brought in, in accordance with the principles and intended operation indicated by the Report; but, should that be lost, he would be in favor of the scheme suggested by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, (Mr. Palmer,) as the next best. The principle recognised in the amendment proposed by the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County, (Mr. Mooney,) was one in strict accordance with reason and justice; but, being persuaded that its incorporation with the Bill would endanger its final passage, he (Mr. F.) felt it to be his duty to vote against its adoption for the present; although, as a separate measure of justice to the people, it would have his cordial support.

Hon. Mr. COLES. He wished the hon. member (Mr. Mooney) could be persuaded to withdraw his amendment. He (Mr. Mooney) could not but know that, should it be adopted, it would be very likely to ruin the Bill, and be the means of withholding, for at least another year, the benefits of the contemplated measure from the people. He would move, that the hon. member have leave to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. MOONEY. He would not consent to withdraw his amendment. He was, by no means, sanguine in his expectations of being able to carry it; but he was convinced that the discussion which it had occasioned was calculated to do much good throughout the country, by opening the eyes of the people, and convincing them of the necessity of incessant vigilance and activity, on their own part, for the redress of their grievances, and of the folly of trusting implicitly to the liberal professions of those who, for whatever purposes, whether individual or party, sought the support which their suffrages could afford. If his amendment should be rejected; if the Government should, by their opposition to it, confess that they did not dare to attempt the taxing of the proprietors,—for the support of a measure, the most needful which could be devised, and, in the operation of which, all classes would have a direct beneficial interest,—to the amount of only £800 a year, on account of their estates, from which they drew annually, out of the pockets of the tenantry, to the amount of many thousands: it was time for them honestly to come forward and undeceive the people by a plain and unambiguous acknowledgment of the truth. If such was actually the fact, let a Resolution be moved and carried to the effect, 'That they are unable to do any thing for the tenantry, in any case in which their interests may be opposed to those of the proprietors: that the condition of the tenantry will never be bettered, to the amount of one shilling, by any thing the Government can do for them, by means of their majority in the House: and that the fate of the tenantry of Prince Edward Island must, therefore, be hopelessly left in the hands of the proprietors; for the Government dare not interfere.'

QUIT RENTS.

Mr. DAVIES, as Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare the Draft of an Address to His Excellency, to request His Excellency, to apply to the Colonial Office for information on the subject of the Quit Rents, reported as follows:

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, Knight, Lieutenant Governor, &c., &c. of Prince Edward Island.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY;

The House of Assembly have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's reply to their address of the 15th instant, wherein your Excellency is pleased to state, "In reply to the address of the Assembly, requesting that a return of the actual amount of the arrears of Quit Rent should be laid before them. On enquiry the Lieutenant Governor finds there is no record or source of information, from which he can obtain the return sought for by the Assembly."

The Eleventh Section of an Act 43, Geo. 3, cap. 2, for repealing an Act, intituled "an Act for the effectual recovery of certain of His Majesty's Quit Rents in the Island of St. John," might be held to warrant the supposition on the part of the House of Assembly, that such a source of information did exist, which section is as follows:—

"And whereas, many of the Proprietors of Land in the Island of Prince Edward, are resident in Great Britain and Ireland, and cannot conveniently pay the Quit Rents in the said Island: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any Proprietor of Lots or part or shares of Lots of Lands in this Island, residing in Great Britain or Ireland, shall and do, on or before the first day of August next ensuing the passing of this Act, discharge and pay their Quit Rents in arrear, and shall pay their future Quit Rents annually and regularly in London, to the Receiver General of His Majesty's Quit Rents, or his sufficient Deputy, such lots or parts or shares of Lots, shall not be liable to be proceeded against as directed by this Act."

"Provided nevertheless, that if such Proprietors do neglect to pay their Quit Rents, from time to time, for the space of Six months after the same shall become due and payable, accordingly to their undertaking as aforesaid, the said Lots or parts or shares of Lots, shall be liable to be proceeded against as herein directed, and the Receiver General of His Majesty's Quit Rents or his Deputy as aforesaid, shall, for that purpose, transmit to the proper Office in the Island of Prince Edward, within three months, from and after the expiration, from time to time, of the said Six months, whenever such neglect shall happen, on account of such Proprietors who shall so neglect their payments, that the same may be made liable, and proceeded against accordingly; and such account so transmitted as aforesaid, shall be conclusive evidence, that the said Proprietors have so neglected to pay their Quit Rents, and that the said Lots or parts or shares of Lots, are liable to be proceeded against as herein directed."

We respectfully submit to your Excellency's consideration the following paragraph, taken from a Report of a Committee of the whole House on the State of the Colony, 21st March, 1825, wherein it appears, a Receiver General of His Majesty's Quit Rent, actually resided on the Island, and collected considerable sums of money by his authority, viz.:

"That it further appears to your Committee by the evidence of the acting Receiver General, that the whole Quit Rents received by him, amounted to the sum of Three thousand Nine hundred and Eighty Pounds, about Four hundred Pounds of which was collected by his Deputies, in doing which, there were but few instances of actual distraint, as the parties generally settled, by paying their Quit Rent, together with the Deputies' charges for travelling and other fees, and that the expenses incurred in recovering the remainder of the said Quit Rent, and paid out of the Quit Rent Revenue, absorbed the whole of the said Three thousand Nine hundred and Eighty Pounds, excepting the sum of Six hundred and Seventy Pounds, which was handed over to the present Receiver General, out of which, there is still payable, upwards of Four hundred Pounds, due on the before-mentioned proceedings.

The House of Assembly would here observe, that in the year 1829 an Address was presented by the House of that day, to the then Lieut. Governor, to be forwarded to His late Majesty, King George the Fourth, wherein His Majesty's right is fully recognised as is shown by the following paragraph taken therefrom as follows:

"We have learned with dismay, that your Majesty has been advised to order the collection of the arrears of Quit Rent due by this Island, from the first day of January 1823. While we acknowledge the justice of your Majesty's claim, which we would most cheerfully discharge, did our ability correspond with our inclination, we are constrained to declare (humiliating as the confession is) that the whole circulating medium of the Colony would be inadequate to meet one-fourth of this large accumulating sum."

"Under these circumstances, were your Majesty's present order enforced, the distress which must enevitably ensue would prove calamitous to the Colony, and involve in utter ruin a large portion of its deserving and industrious population."

To which the following reply was conveyed to the Lieut. Governor, by Despatch bearing date, Downing Street, Sept. 1st, 1829.

"I have to desire you will acquaint the Legislature in reply, that as far circumstances will permit, His Majesty's Government have every desire to comply with the prayer of the address, I shall therefore be prepared to advise His Majesty, to accept of a permanent grant of £1000 per annum, in lieu of any further demand on account of arrears of accruing Quit Rents; and this will be appropriated to such objects in aid of the Civil or Colonial Establishment of the Colony as may receive His Majesty's sanction, subject however, in the first instance, to the payment of any charges which may have been heretofore imposed upon Quit Rents, for which the sum in question, is a commutation."

To this Despatch the House of Assembly on April the 26th 1830, drew up a reply, from which the following extract is respectfully submitted.

"While we acknowledge your Majesty's undoubted right to the payment of these Rents, and feel grateful for the liberality displayed in the offer to commute them, our duty to your Majesty compels us to state the reason, by which we have been actuated in not